**N E W S R E L E A SE**

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Arkansas’ Unemployment Rate Increases to 2.7% in August

**Little Rock, Ark., September 19, 2023-** Today the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas’ seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one- tenth of a percentage point, from 2.6% in July to 2.7% in August. The United States’ jobless rate rose three- tenths of a percentage point, from 3.5% in July to 3.8% in August.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

* In August, the civilian labor force in Arkansas increased by 2,556 while adding 895 more employed Arkansans. Both remain at record-high levels. Unemployment rose for the first time since October 2022, with 1,661 more Arkansans actively looking for work in August. Arkansas’ labor force participation rate was unchanged at 57.7% over the month.
* Compared to August 2022, there are 28,229 more employed and 9,525 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The State unemployment rate is down seven-tenths of a percentage point while the labor force participation rate is up a slight one-tenth of a percentage point.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

* In August, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 5,100. Gains were largely seasonal and related to the start of the school year. The largest growth occurred in Government (+4,000), Professional and Business Services (+2,400), Leisure and Hospitality (+1,300), and Private Educational and Health Services (+1,000).
* Compared to August 2022, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 29,700. Notable annual growth was reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+12,900); Private Education and Health Services (+7,000); Construction (+5,800); and Other Services (+2,800).

# Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | August 2023 | July 2023 | August 2022 | Change from July 2023 | Change from August 2022 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,389,550 | 1,386,994 | 1,370,846 | 2,556 | 18,704 |
| Employment | 1,352,265 | 1,351,370 | 1,324,036 | 895 | 28,229 |
| Unemployment | 37,285 | 35,624 | 46,810 | 1,661 | -9,525 |
| Unemployment Rate | 2.7% | 2.6% | 3.4% | 0.1% | -0.7% |
| Labor Force Participation Rate | 57.7% | 57.7% | 57.6% | 0.0% | 0.1% |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. More information about the data is available at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm>

# Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) | August 2023 | July 2023 | August 2022 | Changefrom July 2023 | Changefrom August 2022 |
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1359.1 | 1354.0 | 1329.4 | 5.1 | 29.7 |
| Goods Producing | 234.3 | 235.0 | 227.7 | -0.7 | 6.6 |
| Mining, Logging, & Construction | 69.8 | 69.7 | 64.2 | 0.1 | 5.6 |
| **Mining & Logging** | **5.0** | **4.9** | **5.2** | **0.1** | **-0.2** |
| **Construction** | **64.8** | **64.8** | **59.0** | **0.0** | **5.8** |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 39.8 | 40.0 | 36.9 | -0.2 | 2.9 |
| **Manufacturing** | **164.5** | **165.3** | **163.5** | **-0.8** | **1.0** |
| Durable Goods | 80.4 | 81.1 | 79.1 | -0.7 | 1.3 |
| Nondurable Goods | 84.1 | 84.2 | 84.4 | -0.1 | -0.3 |
| Service Providing | 1124.8 | 1119.0 | 1101.7 | 5.8 | 23.1 |
| **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities** | **271.2** | **273.2** | **269.6** | **-2.0** | **1.6** |
| Wholesale Trade | 55.3 | 55.5 | 51.4 | -0.2 | 3.9 |
| Retail Trade | 140.9 | 142.9 | 143.1 | -2.0 | -2.2 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 75.0 | 74.8 | 75.1 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| **Information** | **11.9** | **12.1** | **12.8** | **-0.2** | **-0.9** |
| **Financial Activities** | **70.6** | **71.6** | **71.6** | **-1.0** | **-1.0** |
| Finance & Insurance | 55.9 | 56.7 | 56.5 | -0.8 | -0.6 |
| Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing | 14.7 | 14.9 | 15.1 | -0.2 | -0.4 |
| **Professional & Business Services** | **153.1** | **150.7** | **153.7** | **2.4** | **-0.6** |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 50.0 | 50.6 | 48.1 | -0.6 | 1.9 |
| Management of Companies | 41.2 | 39.6 | 38.2 | 1.6 | 3.0 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 61.9 | 60.5 | 67.4 | 1.4 | -5.5 |
| **Private Education & Health Services** | **206.2** | **205.2** | **199.2** | **1.0** | **7.0** |
| Educational Services | 16.9 | 16.1 | 15.9 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 189.3 | 189.1 | 183.3 | 0.2 | 6.0 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 66.4 | 66.4 | 63.2 | 0.0 | 3.2 |
| Social Assistance | 39.1 | 39.3 | 37.3 | -0.2 | 1.8 |
| **Leisure & Hospitality** | **138.1** | **136.8** | **125.2** | **1.3** | **12.9** |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 16.9 | 17.6 | 13.9 | -0.7 | 3.0 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 121.2 | 119.2 | 111.3 | 2.0 | 9.9 |
| Accommodation Services | 12.6 | 12.7 | 11.6 | -0.1 | 1.0 |
| Food Services | 108.6 | 106.5 | 99.7 | 2.1 | 8.9 |
| **Other Services** | **74.5** | **74.2** | **71.7** | **0.3** | **2.8** |
| **Government** | **199.2** | **195.2** | **197.9** | **4.0** | **1.3** |
| Federal Government | 21.3 | 21.3 | 20.5 | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| State Government | 73.1 | 71.2 | 73.2 | 1.9 | -0.1 |
| State Government, Educational Services | 26.9 | 25.0 | 26.8 | 1.9 | 0.1 |
| State Government, Excluding Education | 46.2 | 46.2 | 46.4 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| Local Government | 104.8 | 102.7 | 104.2 | 2.1 | 0.6 |
| Local Government, Educational Services | 60.1 | 57.2 | 59.7 | 2.9 | 0.4 |
| Local Government, Excluding Education | 44.7 | 45.5 | 44.5 | -0.8 | 0.2 |

Source**:** Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2022 benchmark. Notes: Current month’s data are preliminary; previous month’s data are revised.

# Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Arkansas vs. United States (3-Year Comparison)

Arkansas

United States

9.0%

8.0%

7.0%

6.0%

5.0%

4.0%

3.0%

2.0%

1.0%

0.0%

Aug '20

Feb '21

Aug '21

Feb '22

Aug '22

Feb '23

Aug '23

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors August 2022 to August 2023 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

Leisure & Hospitality

12,900

Private Ed & Health

7,000

Construction

5,800

Other Services

2,800

Trade-Transport-Utilities

1,600

Government

1,300

Manufacturing

1,000

Mining & Logging

-200

Professional & Business -600

Information -900

Financial Activities -1,000

-2,500 0

2,500

5,000

7,500

10,000 12,500 15,000

For more Labor Market Data, visit our website at [www.discover.arkansas.gov](http://www.discover.arkansas.gov/)



**About the Arkansas Department of Commerce:**

The Arkansas Department of Commerce is the umbrella department for workforce and economic development drivers. Its divisions and regulatory boards include Division of Aeronautics, Waterways Commission, Wine Producers Council, Division of Workforce Services, Office of Skills Development, State Bank Department, Insurance Department, Securities Department, Economic Development Commission and Development Finance Authority.



**About the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services**

The mission of the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services is to support and secure Arkansas' economic vitality through a highly skilled workforce by administering programs and providing services that empower employers and jobseekers. ADWS is a division of the Arkansas Department of Commerce.

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**About Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics measures labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity In the U.S. economy to support public and private decision making.

**About Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)**

The LAUS program produces monthly and annual employment, unemployment, and labor force data for Census regions and divisions, States, counties, metropolitan areas, and many cities, by place of residence.

**About Current Employment Statistics (CES)**

The CES program produces detailed industry estimates of employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls. CES State and Metro Area produces data for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 450 metropolitan areas and divisions.